POPERY AND TYRANNY: OR, THE Present State OF FRANCE,

In relation to Its

Government, Trade, Manners of the People, and Nature of the Countrey.

As it was sent in a Letter from an *Engliſh* Gentleman abroad, to his Friend in *England*.

Wherein may be ſeen the Tyranny the Subjects of *France* are under, being enſlav'd by the two greateſt Enemies to Reaſon, as well as to Chriſtian or Humane Liberty, I mean *Popery* and *Arbitrary Power*.

Tunc tua Res agitur Paries cum proximus ardet.

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POPERY

AND

TYRANNY:

OR, THE

Present State of FRANCE, &c.

HAving received from you so good and so large an Account of your Affairs at home, with a Request, That you are in, I thought it Consistent with Gratitude to give you some little Account of my Government here, and some little Observations I have been able to make since I came hither, which may somewhat inform you both of the Manner the Subjects of Popery, in, and the Strength of the Popish King, in case of any Design upon us;

POPERY AND TYRANNY

OR, THE Present State of FRANCE, &c.

SIR,

HAving received from you so good and so large an Account of your Affairs at home, with the great Fears you are in, I thought it some small Retribution to give you some little Account of the Government here, and some little Observations I have been able to make since I came hither, which may something inform you both of the Manners the Subjects of *France* live in, and the Strength of the *French* King, in case of any Design upon us.

Concerning the Government.

As to the Government of *France*, it is an Absolute Monarchy, imposed upon the People by a standing, illegal, and oppressive Army. It is the Corruption of a Monarchy from the best tempered one (before the Use of States of *France* was laid aside) to the double Tyranny of Popery and Arbitrary Power. Here you will find that Government in its Perfection, being supported by all the *Machiavilian* tricks of a corrupt Policy, and suffered by a People, who having first submitted the freest part of them to the slavery of Popery, are easily brought to submit the other to the Yoke of Oppression.

Here the Prince is now only upon the Defensive part, only to keep what he has got, which he has brought about now to be no very hard Task, having instilled into the People so great a Vanity of Conquering abroad, that they are prouder of having their King take a Town, than of possessing any thing as their own, without being subject to the Griping hand of an Arbitrary Publican. I must confess, it has wrought so much with me, that it has made me, as often as I meditate upon the Afflictions of my Neighbours here, thank the Almighty, as much for having placed me under so good a Prince, and so good a Government (as that of *England*) as for my daily Sustenance. And really, Sir, it is only to be attributed to the goodness of Almighty God, and the Excellency of his Majesties Temper, that we are not under as great Misfortunes as our Neighbours, having not wanted Ambitious and Ill men among our selves, who had they not been discovered, and curbed by some Noble Patriots, as well as discountenanced, and removed by his Majesty, from his Person and Councels, might too soon have effected their wicked Designs.

You must excuse me, Sir, if I have made such a Digression, it being in a thing so much concerns Me, and all of us; but fearing to trouble you with my thoughts of things, you (being upon the place) can best see into: I shall return to what I have promised, *viz.* Something of the present

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Government of France, or the manner of proceeding, after Tyranny and Arbitrary Power is come to be the setled Government, under an Active Popish Prince.

The Government of France is to be considered, either in relation to its Subjects or Foreign Interest. As to the Subjects, the present state is this: The Nobility of all sorts are very much Oppressed, and their Interests are to be broken, and rendred absolutely dependent upon the Crown by these Means:

1. No Favourite suffered to form a Faction, or oblige Dependents, Affairs being Managed by three Upstarts, only Assistants to the Prince, who Acts, and Determines all himself: and thus the Nobility and Gentry are totally laid aside as to the Administration of Government.

2. As to Counsel, they are rarely and with great Caution made Use of; and that only upon extraordinary Occasions; none of them being admitted to those Charges that do render it necessary as the Prince of Conde, Marshal Turin, who are only made Use of in matters of War, and Foreign Enterprizes.

3. None of their Mediation admitted between the Prince and his Subjects, as to publick or private Favours, Rewards, Performers, or any Affairs, laying them aside as to the Counsel Interest.

4. All those Charges Military or Civil, that may render them Considerable, in profit or eclipsed, as the high Constable, high Admiral, and Colonel of the Infantry.

Governours of Provinces, Towns, Fortresses, are eclipsed by these means, by Intendants, who are Superiours, placed in every Province, who usurp the whole Power under the Notion of Intendants, over Justices, Policy, and Finances, at first only ordained for Finances.

These render Account only to the King, who admits of no Superiour Intendant, or high Treasurer, nor Mediation of the Governour; who being thus divested of Power, is reduced also to his bare Pension; also the Profits and Privileges taken away which were considerable, and in

Truth

Truth is now much the same thing with our Lord Lieutenants, as to quartering Souldiers, and other Military Affairs.

As to Towns and Fortresses, all Inland ones are demolished, and Frontiers, such only as are thought necessary, kept up and maintained, all the French Companies formerly belonging to the Governours, suppress't, no Possibility of false Musters, or making Lists of Towns men to fill up the Places, the King supplying his Garrisons out of his standing Army, and taking the Pay of the Provinces towards their Maintenance, and charging them every three Months, by select Companies out of the several Regiments, that the Governour and their Officers may not be able by any Correspondence to have Interest in them, or reap any Advantages for themselves, notwithstanding all which, the Charges are saleable, and rarely the greater Nobility admitted to them.

2. All Charges both in the Army, Law, Court and Revenue, are diminished in number, and retrenched in Profits, upon which the Nobility heretofore depended, they are beside much impoverish'd,

1. By the late Expedition into *Flanders*, from which they were dismiss'd without Pay or Recompence.

2. By retrenching their Privileges as to Exemption from Tally, restraining it to one Farm or Mansion, and that in one Place, not exceeding two Ploughs.

3. By Project of reviewing the ancient Nobles.

4. By re-assuming all the demesne Lands of the Crown as upon a Mortgage.

The Clergy is also overmatch'd

1. By strict Visitations, in point of Manners and Imployment of their Revenues.

2. By upholding the *Jansenists* against the *Jesuits*, the Jesuits upholding the Kings Authority against the Popes.

3. By threatning to subject the Religious to Episcopal Jurisdiction; to which I may add by having the Pope under his Girdle, whereby he extorts from the Religious great

great Aids, and suppresses all religious Societies, not exceeding such a number, or wanting Royal Establishment.

What concerns Offices and Officers, in this Manner.

1. Multitudes of them both in Reference to Law and Finances are suppress.

2. The Profits of Offices relating to the Law are diminished by *Code Louis*, and the Fees and Salaries of others regulated by new Edicts.

3. The Privileges of many of the Officers as to Tally are diminished.

4. The *Polet* is granted upon very hard Conditions, *viz.* to contribute to the new Company of Trade and *Candia* Expedition, which is now at an end, by the Surrender of *Candia* to the *Turk*.

The *Polet* is an ancient Payment of a certain Sum by each Office, in lieu whereof, the Officers have Power to dispose of the same, though they dye (by Will or otherwise) but still at the Election of the Prince, that if he refuse, their Offices are but for Life; yet rarely, till this Princes time, hath this *Polet* been denied.

5. All sorts of Officers and Partisans that have got considerably by Farming or Lending upon the Kings Revenue, are required by the *High Court of Justice*, in an Arbitrary way, *viz.* by comparing what they have got, with what their Places and Farms in Reason ought to yield them, and with what they were worth before, forcing to answer to the King the overplus.

6. All the Courts to which they relate, are awed; especially that of Parliaments, who are forced to Register, and Pass the Kings Edicts of Course, without the usual Formalities: Such as oppose him therein, being usually banished by him by Letters of *Cachet*.

7. The King takes away Offices at his pleasure, and gives what Recompence he pleases.

As to what concerns Protestants, they are diminished in their

their number, and weakened by these means.

1. By making them incapable of all Offices and Charges of Judicature, the Court of Parliament, and other high Charges in State or Army; and in truth, by making their Profession an obstacle to all Preferments.

2. Forbidding all Marriages between them and Catholicks.

3. Whensoever they are turned, to make it highly Penal to Return.

The Names of the Nobility turned *Roman* Catholicks of late years, *Marshal Turin*, *Le Duc de Duras*, and the *Counte de Lorge* his Brother: the *Count de Lorge Mountgomery*; *Messieurs de Pons*, two Brothers: *Mounsieur de St. Mistua* in *Xaintoign*: *Mounsieur de la Roachel*: *Mounsieur de Pellisou*: *Mounsieur* the Prince *de Tarrant*, Son to the Duke of *Tours*, *&c.*

4. Under Pretence that their Temples have been erected since the Edict of *Nantes* without Licence, or upon holy Ground belonging to the Catholick Church, as they call themselves, demolishing Multitudes of them thereby, forcing them to the Inconveniency of four or five Leagues if not more, out of their respective City and Towns, and suppressing all private Chappels belonging to the Protestant Gentry, upon Pretence of Non-residence.

5. Demolishing all Places of Strength where they abode in Numbers, and erecting Cittadels to awe these Towns where they are numerous.

6. By taking away Hospitals and all other Provisions for their Poor, given by Protestants, not allowing them to make any Gifts for Perpetuity, nor admitting them the Privilege of other Hospitals provided for the rest of his Subjects.

7. By conniving at the Clergy, when contrary to Law, they force their Children from them, and concealing them from their Parents, bered them up in their own Religion.

8. By restraining Catholicks from taking Protestants Children their Apprentices, and prohibiting Catholicks from placing their Children with Protestants.

Touch-

Touching the Commonalty, his Subjects, first, the Burgois.

1. His *Impositions* are heavy upon them, saving, in such Places where they exercise Foreign Trade, so that most of the *In*-land Towns are much decayed.

2. The want of no Corporations or Companies amongst them, whereby they might be formidable, as to Interest, or make themselves considerable in acquiring Wealth.

I have been informed by *Parisians*, that out of that little which belonged to them, they constantly paid near two Thirds to the King; and that those that had only what they earned by hard Labour, were not exempt from great Impositions; nor were they yet free from the Imposition of Salt, *viz.* from being forced to take it at their prices, what they will think fitting they should pay. Secondly, The *Peasant*, or lowest sort of Common People, are more favoured than the rest, as to Impositions since Taly being diminished some Millions, the Manner of levying it much regulated, and multitudes made Contributors, that were not heretofore; which is done for two Reasons.

1. Because there was Necessity for it.

2. Because they are the King's Lares, that are to yield to him daily Interest, and therefore to be Encouraged and Cherished. To which I might add, the Design the King hath of altering that Tax, and making it real, by charging it upon the Land, which, by throwing it upon the Gentry, and taking the Personal Estate, he hopes to bring to pass. Nor hath he been less favourable to them in the *Gabel* of Salt, changing, in most places, the way of imposing it, and contenting himself to be the sole Merchant; to which end he purchased all Salt-Pans in private hands, finding, that these things were imposed by the Parisians to a destruction of the Duty itself; and his People and the Government, is at present vigorous in Execution of Laws, and impartial in the Execution of Justice, labouring to free the People from the Oppressions of all others, but the

King, and to encourage and render them capable of bein a Trading Nation.

What concerns Foreign Interest.

I shall not say much, though I could, it being rather Matter of History than Reflection; only this present King hath never omitted his Advantage for any regard of Honour, or Faith, either in making of Treaties, or observing of Alliances: The *Militia* of *France* consists either of Maritime, or Land-Forces; of the latter, I have no exact Account, but by computation the King hath fifty or sixty thousand Horse and Foot, since the Disbanding; but according to the best Information, as to the Goodness, I hear they decline daily very much, and that for three respects.

1. The Discipline and Duty being so rigorous, that for want of five Men the Captain shall be cashiered, though they ran away, and he not able to supply it.

2. The Pay is so small, that neither Officer nor Souldier can scarce live upon it, beside Deduction to Horse and Foot for Clothing, Hay and Oats, and the Pay of a Captain of Foot, *per diem* being fifty Soulz; a Lieutenant thirty Soulz; Ensign fifteen Soulz; a Souldier five Soulz; a Captain of Horse six Livres, a Lieutenant three, a Cornet two Livres five Soulz.

3. The great Discouragement of old Officers, and new ones two, by the late Disbanding without Pay, and keeping only such in Pay, as were able at their own Charges to keep up their Company; and taking away all Privileges in Muster, or otherwise, for so many Horses, for so many Servants, and their Allowance for Table; beside most of their old Boys are spoiled by Disbanding of part: To which I may add, that the *Switzers*, *Scottish*, and *Protestants* are under such Discouragement, that they have almost quitted the Army; but yet to do the King right, he entertains all reformed Officers at half Pay, and daily forbids the sale of Military Offices, and, for the most part, bestows them according

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to Seniority, unleſs it be in his Guards, keeps them under good Diſciſpline, Pays punctually, Exerciſes them frequently, makes them take their turn in *Flanders*; and laſtly, gives many conſiderable Penſions, and the truth is, endeavours to deſtroy all other Suppports, both of them and of the Nobility and Gentry, and to make them all to depend abſolutely upon him and his Penſions.

As for the *Militia* by Sea, all that I ſhall ſay by way of Reflection is, that he doth vigorouſly endeavour the Encreaſe and Propagation of Trade, and Building of Ships, to which end, he is reported to make up his Fleet 100 Sail, and daily encreaſe his Stores, by purchaſing and cutting down Timber he finds fit for it, and alſo hath found out great ſtore of Maſts of Timber of his own, with Pitch and Tar, procuring men out of *Swedeland* to teach the making of it here; ſome Defects I find at preſent, which time may rectifie; his Ships are built too high and too narrow, the Guns carry not above 28 *l.* Bullet; they want Guns, and treat Strangers but ill after they have got them into Service; the Pay of Sea-men is but 10 Livres a Month, wherein Diet is reckoned; this undertaken by each particular Captain; their Gallies worſt ſerved, only by condemned Perſons, which they change perpetually. They have receiv'd an Opinion, that by the goodneſs of Powder, and manner of Charging, that they can make their Guns equal the Force of thoſe which are bigger; and in purſuit hereof, they daily caſt great Guns they find in Garriſons into this proportion, which may do well enough for Land, but not for Sea-Service. To which I may add, the Port he hath cauſed to be built at *Charante*, *Haure* and other Places; he hath laid out ſeveral Millions at *Charante*, but to little purpoſe, through the knavery and indiſcretion of thoſe that are Overſeers, that he is laught at by moſt that ſee it, with a reparation of fortifications of the reſt of the Ports and Havens, and the many Works he hath provided in ſeveral Places for the caſting of Ordnance, Anchors, and providing Materials for Shipping and all warlike Munitions, and the great encouragement he gives to all Gentlemen to go to Sea, and above all theſe, the manner where-

by he promotes Trade and building Ships of Force by private men (which shall farther be shewed under the Head of Trade.) As for the Governor himself, the King of *France*, I shall be sparing in his Character, because he is so well known; that I might run the danger of Flattery, I shall only remark the most eminent Vertues in him.

1. Industry; being the Doer of all things himself, making choice of fit Instruments to act under him, both for Advice and Execution; not such as can incline him, reserving the Determination and Account of all that is done unto himself; and but one day in the Week that he is not personally present in his Councils.

2. A well-stated Reserve in his Comportment; being easie of Access to all men of Business, and incommunicable to all other Familiarities.

3. The great Command over his Passions, which he expresses upon all occasions, and government of his Tongue, whereby he obtains a great Secrecy, & renders his Counsels insearchable.

4. His unparallell'd Constancy in these and all other his Measures, not quitting Friendship with any one he hath once made choice of, whether of his Favourite-Ministers, or beloved Mistresses, notwithstanding the unsuccessful Undertakings of the first, as in the business of *Gydgery* in *Africa*, East and West-*India* Trade, and new Manufacturtes.

To this I may oppose, by way of Balance;

1. His Parcimony; which may rather serve an Excess of Virtue than of Vice: whereby the Services done to him are not so well rewarded; all the Estates of men depending upon him, not supported, they by that means being indigent and discontented. This seems grounded upon the Experiment he had of the Misfortune of his Ancestors, by their contrary practices, not from any inclination in him to Avarice; which is sufficiently confirmed in him, by his Enterprizes, which have always been carefully sustain'd by his magnificent buildings, furniture and fortresses, as also by his sumptuous and splendid entertainments (the Ballad represented 5 or 6 Carnavals ago, stood him in 180000 Livr. which is 14000 *l. sterling*,

ling, with the care he takes to beſtow liberal Penſions, Preferments and Rewards, upon ſuch as have deſerved well of him in Civil or Military Employments, not ſuffering them to make any Advantage, or to take one penny more than their Wages or Salary, from any of his Subjects, or others, for the diſcharging of their Offices, and turning them out infallibly, and puniſhing them ſeverely when they do otherwiſe, thereby obliging them to Fidelity, Induſtry, and an abſolute Dependency upon him, and by his employing the meaner ſort in Buildings, Manufacturies, Fortreſſes, in *Flanders* and *France*, Magazines, new Chanells, Havens, Shipping and Trade at his own Expence, thereby making the Money circulate quick.

2. He is too rigorous in his Diſcipline and Execution of Laws and Reformation of Buſineſs, even to a degree of ſeeming Injuſtice, as the Military Diſcipline, Treatment of *Fawkes* and the *Pariſians* Reduction of Offices and Officers do evidence.

3. His perſonal Vices are too publick to the World, and too open in his own Kingdom, whereby Corruption of Manners is produced in his Court, and amongſt the Nobility, even to the ſpreading it ſelf to all Degrees and Sexes.

4. Amongſt his Defects may alſo be reckoned his not being regardful enough of his Faith and Honour in matters of Alliances where his Intereſt is concerned.

Concerning Trade

The Enlargement and Advantage of Trade ſeems to be one of the greateſt Deſigns of his Crown, nor is there any Coſt ſpared therein; as well appears by theſe enſuing Particulars.

1. Their Endeavours to enlarge both Foreign and Domeſtick Trade; as to Foreign, the erecting of *Eaſt India* and *Weſt India* and Northern Companies, the encouraging and Countenancing them with great Priviledges, both real and perſonal, and exempting the Commerce from derogating Nobility, their Commodities from all Inland Duties, either Provincial or Entries into Towns or otherwiſe.

2. Aſſiſt-

2. Aſſiſting them with great Sums of Money, *viz.* a fifth part of their Stock, and fifty *Sols* for all Goods outward, and ſeventy five for all Goods inward, out of his Coffers; engaging all his great Officers with Priviledge of Exemption from Reſidence and Duty there, and impoſing upon all Perſons of Ability, to go a ſhare in the Stock, thereby not only engaging them in point of Intereſt, but Experience and Knowledge of the Trade. As to Domeſtick Trade by encouraging all Manufacturies already ſetled here, and introducing all Others, this Nation is capable of, for his Uſe at his Expence, (he is blamed for attempting alſo ſuch as are not for their Uſe, and which they can never afford at the ſame Rate which others ſell at) as alſo the great advance of the Trade of Silk, Salt, and Linnen, and the ſetting upon the Dutch and foreign Manufactures do ſufficiently evidence.

3. Having reduced all Home Duties into one receit, to ſave the Expence of ſo many Officers, and of Time, is another great Encouragement of Domeſtick Trade; to all theſe I may add, the Advance of Duty upon all Foreign Merchandize, the Defence made againſt all Foreign Manufacturies, the Favouring the Artizan, as to Table; but above all, the Example of the Prince, in confining himſelf to the wearing his Manufacturies, and obliging all his Dependents to the like obſervance, is of great importance.

4. The Increaſe of Navigation and Shipping is procured by theſe means.

1. Giving 500 *l.* of his own Cuſtoms, by way of Encouragement for every hundred Tuns of Shipping his Subjects ſhall build, of above 100 Tuns burden, and 400 Livres for all they ſhall buy.

2. Rendring all Perſons incapable in Corporations relating to Trade, that have not an Intereſt in Shipping, to put a proportion appointed to each Officer.

3. Electing a Northern Company to furniſh his Subjects with Proviſions of Shipping at the beſt hand, and alſo endeavouring to find the Materials in his own Countrey, as I have already obſerved.

4. Giving their Shipping Preference of Employment, as the

the late Edicts for Salt shews, obliging all his Officers to fraight French Ships at such a Rate before any Strangers, as also fifty Soulz *per* Tun imposed upon Foreign Vessels.

5. Endeavouring to make his Subjects sole Merchants of all Trades, as well imported as exported, and not only by the Priviledges already mentioned upon their Commodities and Ships, but also by putting all manner of Discouragements upon all Foreign Factories and Merchants by Difficulty in their Dispatches, delays in point of Justice, subjecting them to Foreign Duties and Seizures, not suffering them to be Factors to the French or any other Nation but their own, and in case of Death to have their Estates seised as *Aliens*, and the Countenance and conceiving the *French* have as to all Duty when imploy'd in the Service of Foreigners.

6. The great Care taken to set the Poor on Work, to the Increase of Trade, and disburdening the rest of their Fellow-Subjects, as Workhouses over all *France* manifesteth; but especially at *Paris*, and at *Lyons* which hath *Hostels de Dieu*, far better than a Tax to support them in Idleness.

The Care taken to Encourage Foreigners to Travel, or abide in France, and so increase the number of Subjects, as sheweth;

1. By a general Naturalization of all Nations, except *English*, *Irish*, and *Spanish*; the People of *Flanders* are comprized in that benefit.

2. Convenient Academies, Schools, Colleges, Pensions and Tables *de Hostes*.

3. Convenient Passages, by Messages, Coaches, and Boats.

4. Impartial and speedy Justice to all Strangers, as well as their own Subjects, especially in Courts Merchants, and before their Commissaries, considering Contracts made by Srangers; to which I may add, the late care of setting up Post-Places.

For every Winter the King does not keep his Court at *Paris*, he is obliged by Covenant to abate sixteen hundred thousand Livres to those that Farm his Excise for that Place.

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In two years time, soon after the Kings Marriage, when the Kingdom was in Peace the King drew from the *Parisians* six score Millions of Livres.

Some Defects and Difficulties in the way of their Trade managed.

1. The Wealth of the *Burgois* seems inconsistent with the Policy of this Monarch.

2. The Arbitrarines of the Tallies discourageth the meaner sort, seeking after no more than supplying absolute Necessity, and makes Towns fearful to receive new Manufacturies for fear of Increase of their Tallies.

3. The Prejudice the Trade lies under as to the Nobility, being inconsistent with it, the Policy of this Monarch designing them all for Arms and Art, and not for Trade.

4. The unsetledness of the Books of Rates and great Arbitrarines of the Kings Officers and Farmers, which are too much favoured by Laws.

5. The present Policie admits not of any Corporations of Trade to be Elective.

6. Want of able Merchants amongst them, and putting the Directions of all their present Companies, into the Hands of Persons ignorant in Trade, Favourites of the present Ministers; whereby they have lost the third part of the Stock of the *East India* Company already, making all the new Manufactures Monopolies, whereby most of them are come to nothing, as that of Silk-Stockens and Cloth.

7. The Encrease of Church-men and Souldiers, with the Design this Monarchy hath of enlarging it self by new Acquisitions at Land.

Lastly, The natural Idleness and Luxury these People are adicted unto, but that Necessity forceth them to the contrary, together with the forcing them to enter into Companies of Trade, and imposing their new Manufactures upon Places and Buyers, with the evil Treatment of those Strangers, that teach them after they have once learned their Trade, and the Difficulty of finding a Market and Credit, (which attends all new Beginners) especially where others are in possession of Trade, are Obstructions not easily conquered; yet should the Project hold, of making the Tal-

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ly hold real, and Salt Merchantable, ſucceed, and Trade and Manufacturies be made free and the Book of Rates be Regulated, under the preſent Encouragements; and the great Advantage of the cheapneſs of Work and great Induſtry of Workmen it were much to be feared, that the reſt of the difficulties would be overcome. Since I wrote this, the King hath paſſed an Edict, declaring, That the Trade of Merchandize never ought to have been, nor never ſhould be, in any time to come, eſteemed a Derogation to Nobility; and Ennobling it with many Privileges, and by the diminution of the Profits and Privileges of all Charges Military and Civil (as I have before obſerved) endeavouring to Neceſſitate the Gentry, and Sons of the Nobility themſelves to merchandiſe.

Concerning the Revenue.

The whole Revenue of the Crown is Eighty Millions; all Charges deducted, comes to ſixty Millions of Livres yearly, not poſſible to be augmented; the Clergy, Nobility, and Partizans being already pared and pilled, the Tallies and Gabals in moſt places, upon the meaner ſort, being ſo far ſtretcht that they require abatement: Eſpecially in reſpect of Ceſſation of War, and Interruption of Trade with Foreigners, by reaſon of their new Projects about Trade; but in general, this I muſt ſay, that there never was more care taken in managing of the Kings Revenues by Superiour, as well as Inferiour Officers, and am informed, that the Tally is ſo regulated, that the Expence in Levying it comes not to above a twentieth part; but its Arbitrary manner of Collecting the Tally is thus: The King ſends down to the Intendant what he intends to Levy upon the Province by way of Tally; the Intendant, conſulting the Elect of each Diviſion, returns up word what he thinks it able to bear that year, with the reaſons thereof; then the King fixeth the ſum; then the Elects are convened to diſtribute the Sum upon each Diviſion; And laſtly, the Intendant adviſeth with the Elect; fixes the Sum upon each Pariſh, as he pleaſeth, (which is practiſed very Arbitrarily) and alſo appoints the Aſſeſſors in the Pariſh, (who are anſwerable for the Taxes upon the Pariſh out of their own Eſtates) and may impoſe the ſame Arbitrarily on their Neighbours, yet moſt of them of any Subſtance take their Turns, and are much regu-

lated by new Edicts, in impoſing and levying the ſame. If there be any complaint made, that the Pariſh is over-burdened, the Remedy is by Petition to the Intendant, who, upon Examination, doth as he ſees cauſe; and the Appeal from him is only to the King, which is rarely or never practiſed; for thoſe that are great men, and concerned at Court, are always favoured by the Intendant, and for the reſt he matters them not. The Intendant, as I ſaid before, is an Officer Elected to Govern and Overſee the Affairs of the Revenue and Finances, but his Power is ſince inlarged to Examine and Determine all Complaints concerning the good Government of the Province and every Member, and now lately to overſee the new Manufacturies and Trade, and all other things, except the *Militia*, and he gives a conſtant Account to the King by a Maſter of Requeſts, of the Eſtate of the Province, and Trade, and of all ſuch Grievances, Inconveniences, and Complaints, as are not in his Power to remedy, and is become a very neceſſary Officer; yet rarely any of Quality is preferred to this Imployment but men Induſtrious, bred up to the Law. If there be any complaint between the Aſſeſſours and their Neighbours, this is determined at the Court of the Elects. Now it is to be known, theſe Elects are certain Officers, who buy their Offices, and are appointed by the King for each Diviſion, though poſſibly in their beginning they were elected by each Diviſion. There lies an Appeal from them to the Courts of Aids, where alſo Proceſs iſſues forth againſt the Aſſeſſors, if any Sum be behind; which Courts are aſſiſted with the Chamber of Accounts; theſe hold Plea generally of all Matters relating to the Revenue, and the Edicts concerning the ſame, are now uſed to be Regiſtred there, and not in Parliament.

An Account of the Clergy, and their Revenue.

The *Roman Church* of *France* hath in it fourteen Arch-biſhopricks, *viz. Lyons, Sens Auches, Arles, Remes, Bourdeaux, Tholouſe, Burgers, Narbone, Aix, Vienne, Roan, Paris.* Under which are contained 95 Biſhopricks, 120000 Pariſhes, or cures; it hath 1356 Abbies, 12400 Priories, 255 Commanders of *Malta*, 452000 Monaſteries, that have all Chaplains, beſides the Monaſteries of Religious Women, of which the number is 557. Beſide theſe, there are 700 Convents of *Cordelis*, without comprehending the *Jacobins* and *Carmelites*, the *Auguſtines*, the *Charteva*, the *Beliſmes*, the *Jeſuits*, the *Mi-*

Minims, and other Religious Houſes, the Number whereof is 14078, which Eccleſiaſticks poſſeſs; 9000 Caſtles, Pallaces and Houſes, which have high, mean, and low Juſtice.

They have alſo 259000 large Farms, and 10000 Arpans of Vines, ſo that it is found that the Revenue of the Church *per annum*, amounts to 312 Millions of Livres.

Concerning the Manners of the People.

The Nobility and Gentry (unleſs it be ſuch as are aſſured of Eccleſiaſtical Preferment) are unlearned, yet generally well bred, and very capable of the Court and Camp, or Charges belonging to the Law.

The Gentry, when they are paſt the Grammar-School, are uſually ſent to the Academies, where they learn to ride the great Horſe, dance, fence, and ſome of them ſome part of the Mathematicks; eſpcially Fortifications.

The *Burgois* are very ingenious, the Artiſan and Peaſant very laborious, of which latter ſort, not a hand is idle from break of Day till Night; all, except the great Nobility and Gentry, Devout; they are Civil to Strangers, Servile to their Prince, and Good to their Relations and Families.

Their Defects and Vices.

They are ſuperficially Learned, or knowing nought but Law, Phyſick, Chirurgery, and Art of War; horribly addicted to Luxury, and Vices of the Court, as plain Building, great Trains, Courtſhip and Entertainments, which ſeems to be the Butt and Scope on all men of all Degrees, except Peaſants; Proud, Boaſters, Deſpiſers of others, Envious of their Superiors, and Tyrannical to their Inferiors, Slighting in their Friendſhip, Unreaſonable in their Askings, Unjuſt in their Dealing, extreamly given to Law-Suits, and Exacting upon Strangers joyn'd with a Court-Confidence, from the Higheſt to the Loweſt. The Sum of all, they employ themſelves to a Court-Deportment, are not naturally Induſtrious, except to acquire Mony for their Luxury; which the Peaſant alſo would be inclined unto, were not his Condition ſuch as puts him in deſpair of it.

As to the Countrey; The Air is generally very wholſom, the Towns well built, the Soil very fruitful, and well improved in all but Herbage, abounding in ſmall walled Towns and Burroughs, through the multiplicity of Lords that ſhar'd the Lands, now generally decayed, an ill People, delicious Companies, and full of elegant Seats and Country-Houſes, generally ſmall, but embelliſhed

bellished with Groves and fine Gardens; the great Cities are full of sumptuous Buildings, well Peopled, and over-run with the Religious, with Officers of all kinds, and small Artizans; there is abundance of Wealth, but collected no where but in the Crown; the rest, the Lawyers, Clergy, and Officers hitherto have the best share.

Reflections on the Alliance of France, *and its Foreign Interest.*

They are suspected by all their Neighbours at present, tho' some, out of Necessity or Interest, are forced to depend on them; such are the Princes of the *Rhine*, the King of *Portugal*, the Dukes of *Savoy* and *Loraine*, the *Dutch*, in Case of Difference with *England*; the *Dane* is geneaally opposed to the *Swedes*, and joyned to *Holland*, the *Pole* upon Defensive against the *Swede*, *Moscovite*, and the *Cossack*, the *Swede* and *Swiss*, upon occasion for Money, if not otherwise employed; the *Italian* perfectly *Spanish*, except the Duke of *Modena*; the *Turk*, upon occasion, may make a Diversion upon the Empire with these several respects; they regard *France*, with great Hopes that *England* will be corrupted, as it hath bin hitherto with the Designs of changing the Government; their flattering Hopes of Assistance in that behalf, are also to ruine the *Dutch*, and make us sharers in *Flanders*; beside the Sums of Money to assist the King in his Necessities, and to corrupt his Ministers, are the Baitsby which they have hitherto prevailed, and hope still to catch us. As for their Triple Alliance, their present Design is, to get an opportunity to fortifie *Flanders*, subdue all *Parties* and *Interest* at home, settle the Revenue of the Crown, to keep up a considerable Army always in preparation, to take advantage of the first Occasion, and to oblige the *Spaniard* to a constant Charge of entertaining the *Swede*, by keeping us from all further Occasion, to render us cool in the Prosecution of Alliances, unprofitable to the *Spaniard*, burdensom to our selves, without propect of future Advantage, and to give us leisure of dividing among our selves. To this I may add, the fomenting the Duke of *York*'s Interest, and *Don Juans* in *Spain*, and their Pretence in weakning the *Dutch*, in directing their Trade by their new Impositions, and new introduced Mannfacturies, whilst we in our Manufactures suffer most by them, the *Dutch* looking well enough to themselves and their Concerns.

Paris, SIR, Your most Humble Servant.

FINIS.

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